Owens, Padgett file campaign finance reports

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Body

DURHAM - ***Reports*** from two would-be County Commissioners indicate that they, like several of their fellow candidates, to a significant degree may be self-***financing*** their ***campaigns***.Challenger John ***Owens*** told the county Board of Elections he'd raised $7,234 for his run in today's Democratic Party primary.Fellow challenger Rickey ***Padgett*** ***reported*** raising $5,086.***Owens***' disclosure indicated that he'd donated $3,762 to his cause, mostly through a series of in-kind contributions. They included a $2,900 expenditure for ***campaign*** signs.***Padgett*** on his ***filing*** counted a $2,086 loan among his proceeds.That item appeared on a line that customarily indicates that candidates have dipped into their own pocket to advance money to their ***campaign***. But ***Padgett*** didn't list the source of his loan, an omission county Board of Elections Director Michael Perry said would spark a follow-up query.Candidates have to disclose the source of loans, even those from their own wallet. "Looks like he's missing some stuff there," Perry said of ***Padgett***'s ***filing***.

"We'll have to get him to give us that information."The ***reports*** from ***Owens*** and ***Padgett*** were the last Perry's staff released for the 14 candidates in this year's County Commissioners primary.Time stamps indicate that election workers received both on May 1, a day after the deadline for first-quarter ***reports***. Perry's staff posted them to the Web late last week.The ***Owens*** and ***Padgett*** ***reports*** were each short on big-name local donors.***Padgett*** did say he banked $1,000 from Jerry McLaurin, a Raleigh property investor, and $500 from Deborah Powers, a Wilmington concessions and midway operator.He also received $100 from Republican Party activist and Durham Planning Commission member Teiji Kimball, and $100 from K&L Gates lawyer and former County Commissioner Lewis Cheek. Cheek is now a resident of Greensboro.***Owens*** has banked, among others, $525 in contributions from Durham marketing business owner Ian Kleinfeld.The filings didn't much change the financial pecking order in the commissioners race, where challenger Wendy Jacobs and incumbents Brenda Howerton and Ellen Reckhow have opened significant leads on the competition.Jacobs has raised $20,024, Reckhow $14,280 and Howerton this year $5,818.Howerton actually started her fundraising last year and opened 2012 with $14,098 in the bank. That combined with this year's donations means she's had $19,916 available for the spring ***campaign***.Reckhow had $2,956 in the bank to start the year, meaning she's had $17,236 at her disposal during the ***campaign***.Prior filings also suggest that challengers Dilcy Burton, Anita Daniels and Elaine Hyman are to a large degree self-***financing*** their ***campaigns***. Of them, only Daniels has banked a significant number of outside contributions. She's raised $9,179, of which $3,394 was from her own wallet.But the largest force in the ***campaign***, financially, has been Southern Durham Development, the company behind the controversial 751 South project.It's spent, through a group called the Durham Partnership for Progress, $54,100 to promote a ticket that includes Howerton, ***Padgett*** and incumbents Joe Bowser and Michael Page.The move has sparked complaints that the developers have coordinated their advertising ***campaign*** with the four candidates.But Kim Strach, deputy director of the State Board of Elections, late last week ruled that there was "no evidence" that the fliers the Partnership for Progress has sent out were planned in coordination with the candidates.She based that on written statements obtained from the developers and the candidates.Strach had basically telegraphed the finding by noting last week that state law doesn't bar candidates from distributing fliers created by independent political action committees. The law only

targets the planning and creation of ***campaign*** material.The complaints the State Board received for the most part concerned allegations that poll workers representing some of the candidates had in fact distributed partnership-funding fliers.

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